



# Cost Transparency

## OVERVIEW

As more and more organizations implement software-defined data centers, their IT departments are increasingly being challenged to transition from a back-office expense to a value-added service provider. As this transition takes place, IT needs to be transparent about how and where money is being spent, so business leaders can make more-informed decisions.

Known as Cost Transparency, this process of cost accounting in IT provides a granular look at system redundancies, waste, and inaccuracies. Cost Transparency uncovers areas of spending previously ungoverned or unaccounted for, and these new insights can promote positive change throughout an organization.

Data Strategy acts as a trusted advisor to provide Cost Transparency strategies, tools, and solutions to help facilitate meaningful dialogue around transitioning IT to a value-added service provider.

## BUSINESS VALUE

The Data Strategy Cost Transparency Team includes subject matter experts that speak the language of CFO, providing clients with a core strength in accounting and business management. Our solutions give you:

- **Financial Transparency.** With more transparency, you can align service levels with application workloads and cost objectives.
- **Complete Visibility.** With better visibility into the hybrid cloud environment, you can ensure service levels are maintained and your cloud is running optimally.
- **Automated, Intelligent, Analytics-based Monitoring.** With comprehensive monitoring integrated and connected to all levels of your cloud infrastructure, it's easy to resolve performance and capacity issues quickly based on fact –or– based on factual data points.

## OUR SOLUTIONS

Data Strategy Cost Transparency solutions are pre-loaded with industry standards and vendor-specific data, generating base prices for cloud infrastructure services. We can also provide vendor-agnostic tools that can be used alongside your existing platforms.

Showback,  
Chargeback, Metering:  
make informed  
decisions and  
demonstrate true value  
through Cloud services  
portfolio management.

## CAPABILITIES & EXPERTISE

Data Strategy employs a team of Subject Matter Experts with diverse industry experience to facilitate workshops with clients. This focused attention provides clients with access to a breadth of real-world insights that help drive quick definition of the recommendations and approaches that best yield success.

## CLOUD MANAGEMENT

Our solutions include specialized tools that measure multiple factors, such as software utilization, cost upon purchase, and return on investment (ROI). Tools include the standard, enterprise, and advanced versions of **VMware vRealize Suite**, a cloud management platform.

## IT CHARGEBACK & SHOWBACK

IT chargeback is an accounting strategy in which the costs of hardware, software, cloud services, and labor are applied to the business unit which uses them. IT showback is a similar method, but only uses prices to demonstrate costs, with no actual billing. Both strategies shift responsibility to users and encourage them to become more aware of costs and treat IT services as they would any other utility.

Our chargeback and showback solutions can help your IT organization gain better visibility into the specific factors that are driving IT expenditures, leading to more informed budgeting, planning, and forecasting.

## METERING

Using a metering strategy, organizations can meter and bill usage of cloud services and related resources. We can help you design a metering solution to charge per CPU, memory, network, storage, performance levels and/or supported service offerings.

Whether the approach is one of Showback, Chargeback, Metering, or all three, we have you covered.

## OUTCOMES

With Data Strategy's Cost Transparency solutions, your organization is better equipped to drive organizational and behavioral change outside and inside IT. Outside because fact-based conversations remove barriers to a more open and honest conversation among senior leadership regarding resource allocation. Inside because Cost Transparency drives IT team planning toward innovation, new ideas, and elimination of ill-defined and or manual-based practices.

Our Cost Transparency solution also helps your business:

- Gain better visibility into costs
- Build your budget intelligently, instead of guessing
- Make smart decisions about what your costs are and what they need to be
- Better plan IT growth
- Allocate sufficient component resources and identify and address areas requiring improvement.

## CAPABILITIES, EXPERTISE & CERTIFICATIONS

Data Strategy holds and maintains the highest-level certifications with major technology manufacturers EMC, Cisco, VMware, HP, VCE, and Dell.